

Local Hiker Hits the Trail

By PAULA MAXWELL

Seventy-six year old Dick Rothschild of Duxbury's Open Space Committee and other conservationists are in the midst of a hike along the nearly 30 communities between Duxbury and Newburyport which make up the nearly 200 mile Bay Circuit Trail.

Last Friday, over 60 people gathered at the Duxbury/

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Duxbury Clipper

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

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Kingston line's Bay Farm Conservation area to kick off the 16-day Trek 2000 as members of the Bay Circuit Alliance, state and local officials, and interested citizens celebrated the near completion of the trail. Cider, donuts and short guided walks along parts of the trail in town led by Conservation Administrator Joe Grady and Rothschild marked the occasion.

Rothschild said he is trekking the entire route as a personal adventure and challenge because he was invited to go and sees it as a way of showing support.

"I hope the walk will call attention of all the communities in eastern Massachusetts to the beauty of the trail and the fact that it's a wonderful passive recreational facility right in their own back yard they should use and enjoy."

Alan French of Andover, chairman of the volunteer Bay Circuit Alliance which is spearheading the effort, observed at the ceremony that the concept of an Emerald necklace around the Boston area was first developed back in 1929 and the Bay Circuit trail has been establishing a linkage system of parks, open spaces and recreational trails between the North and South Shore since then.

This year, the Bay Circuit Alliance had hoped to have a continuous trail but of the remaining 50 miles, French said 33 are nearly completed. There are still small gaps in the chain remaining in 14 communities. On the South Shore, there are

about 10 miles to link in Easton, 1.6 miles in East Bridgewater, seven miles in Hanson and five miles in Pembroke. To the west of Boston there are some links to be established between Sudbury and Southboro and Ashland and Sherborn. Gaps also remain in Lowell, Chelmsford, Acton, Westford, and Carlisle.

French said many landowners along the envisioned route gave permission for the alliance to temporarily use the property for the Trek 2000, a hopeful sign for the future.

On Saturday morning Rothschild and others began their walk from the Duxbury/Kingston Bay Farm site and will complete their journey October 15 walking 10 to 15 miles a day till they arrive at Joppa Flats Sanctuary in Newburyport. Meal arrangements and accommodations range from camping to lodging and dining in homes, inns, and bed and breakfasts along the way.

Day trekker Olga Rothschild will join her husband along with Open Space Committee Chairman Pat Loring and others tomorrow as the group treks between Moose Hill Sanctuary in Sharon and Wheelock School in Medfield. She said she will also join in for a couple of other legs of the hike.

Rothschild said he intends to keep a journal along the way detailing the trek sights and experiences. Anyone interested in day tripping with the trekkers can do so. For information e-mail baycircuit@juno.com.